

HOW MUCH MORE CAN BARACK OBAMA DISRESPECT WOMEN?

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the campaign of BARACK OBAMA cannot refute Governor Sarah Palin's record of change and reform as Governor of Alaska. She took on the "Old Boy Network" in Alaska and she won. She took on corruption throughout State government and rooted it out. She took on Big Oil and made it serve the interests of her State. She is a true agent of change.

So now the Obama campaign has decided that the way to get at Sarah Palin is through personal attacks and sexist insults. Yesterday, the Associated Press quoted the following: "'You can put lipstick on a pig,' Obama said to an outbreak of laughter, shouts and raucous applause from his audience, clearly drawing a connection to Palin's joke. 'It's still a pig.'"

Well, Mr. Speaker, Senator OBAMA might find such jokes funny, but women will only find them insulting. American women also understand that if this is the kind of change that Senator OBAMA is offering to America, it is really no change at all. Senator OBAMA owes Governor Palin and the women of America an apology.

WE NEED A CHANGE IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of a great change that is taking place in northeast Wisconsin, a change brought on by the failed economic policies of the current administration, an administration that doesn't care about people, rather, they care about corporate profits. What is taking place in Wisconsin is taking place across the middle part of this country. We are losing our jobs overseas.

The paper industry in Wisconsin is being decimated, and recently a paper mill closed. One of the families that lost their position was Bruce Van Zeeland, who writes, "It turned our life upside down, working at one company for 28 years and having no other skills in this horrible job market. My wife is struggling to find a full-time job now. We cannot help out our three kids in college. We worry about losing our home."

This is the change that came about from this Republican dominated House for 12 years and the current administration. We do need a change in Washington, and the Van Zeelands need it now.

SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will look back on a dark day which changed our Nation and the world forever.

On September 11, 2001, we felt the tremors of the World Trade Center collapsing and the attack on the Pentagon. We suffered the destruction of Flight 93 in rural Pennsylvania. And we came together as a country.

On that day, we learned those who would use terror and violence make no distinction between innocent victims and soldiers. We learned the terrible lengths terrorists would go to, and their utter disregard for human life. We mourned the loss of so many of our fellow citizens.

In the days, weeks, months and years since, we have honored the sacrifice and courage of those who showed the world America has men and women willing to lay down their lives for their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts should be on the lives lost on September 11, 2001 and of the men and women of our Armed Forces who are fighting for our freedom to this day.

□ 1015

OIL SECURITY

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the cornerstone of our Republican colleagues' energy mantra these days is "Drill Now, Drill Anywhere" to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil and to bring gasoline prices now. "Drill now, drill anywhere" works more like a concrete boot than a cornerstone. In the interest of America's national security, that is just about the worst policy we could adopt.

According to our Geological Survey and our Minerals Management Survey, our total oil reserves both on land and offshore would only last 15 to 20 years at the rate America consumes oil today, which is 8 billion barrels a year and still rising. What exactly would America do in 15 to 20 years when all of our oil is used up and the only remaining sources of oil are controlled by some of the most undemocratic oil dictatorships around the world?

Think about it, America, before it's too late.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY REFORM; THE TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT IS NOW

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I spent the month of August traveling throughout my district speaking with my constituents about what issues matter to them most. Hands down, energy prices are their number one concern.

As I toured factories, management explained how the rising cost of energy was forcing them to raise the cost of their products, oftentimes making foreign-made goods more appealing to consumers. When I met with farmers, they explained the high cost of fuel, fertilizer, and chemicals. Some farmers are spending over \$900 a day to run their tractors.

At our county fairs and events throughout the district, families described the impact of high gas prices and how it is affecting their spending and savings plans, putting their financial future and stability into jeopardy.

During these discussions, I took pride in telling everyone that House Republicans were fighting during the entire August recess for lower energy costs with an "all of the above" plan that includes the responsible recovery of our natural resources in addition to further development of renewable and alternative energy.

Without comprehensive energy reform, our constituents and economy will continue to suffer. It's time for Congress to act now.

STROLLING DOWN MEMORY LANE: THE BUSH PRESIDENCY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, with the clock winding down on the President's second term, this seems like a good time to stroll down memory lane, looking back on America then and now.

Under this President the number of Americans without health care has risen from 38 million to 46 million. Under this President the price of gasoline has risen from less than \$1.50 a gallon to \$4 a gallon. Under this President the unemployment rate has risen to over 6 percent, with millions more Americans out of work and running out of help. Under this President the prices that Americans pay for food, fuel, college, transportation, and medical costs have risen by 25 percent. And let's not forget that mortgage foreclosures are rising while housing prices are falling, like a rock. This President has been willing to bail out Wall Street but never mind Main Street.

Strolling down memory lane can be very educational, especially when you consider the President is running for an unprecedented third term. They talk about change, but only the names will change. The Republican "wreck-economic" policies that created this economic disaster will remain exactly the same. That's not nostalgia; that's a promise from this administration.

DRILL, BABY, DRILL, AND MINE COAL

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, here's the difference between both sides. Following my colleague, who says this administration, this President, what he fails to mention is that the Democrat majority in this House for the past 2 years is part of the problem. I recognize that.

Here is the price of a barrel of crude oil when President Bush came in: \$23 a barrel. Here's the price of a barrel of crude oil when this Democrat majority came in: \$58 a barrel. Today it's at \$103. We can't sustain that. We can blame everybody we want, but this is a problem we can't sustain.

Drill, baby, drill. Here's the Outer Continental Shelf. They want to only to do 20 percent, maybe. They can't even get an agreement on what they want. This whole area should be open for exploration recovery of oil and gas in our country to help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil and lower prices, and they don't have a clue. They'll continue to say "no" to oil and gas exploration.

They won't even address coal as part of the solution. Coal is the greatest resource we have in this country.

I want to drill, baby, drill, and I want to mine coal.

IF YOU WANT CHANGE, YOU WANT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it's a bit confusing sometimes to listen to the rhetoric. The Republicans have had the Presidency now for nearly 8 years, and they have had the majority in this House since 1994, I think. And if you watched the Republican convention, you would think they were the Democrats talking about change and the problems we have in Washington. They're so against Washington, it's the Washington they have created and cultivated. And the corruption that we've seen here has mostly been on that particular side of the aisle. The failure of our having a children's health plan, which this country should have as a cornerstone of its policy, was the fault of the Republican side that was more interested in tobacco interests than children's interests. And too many times we see the corporate interests of the oil corporations take over the interests of the American society and getting us to be truly energy independent.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the parties have differences, but if you want change, you want the Democratic Party. BARACK OBAMA was a community organizer like Jesus, whom our minister prayed about. Pontius Pilate was a Governor.

ENERGY

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it's been 5 weeks since we have been in session here on the House floor. But there have been many of us that have been on this floor throughout the month of August. We have talked directly with the American people about the immediate need for comprehensive energy legislation. And during August, it became crystal clear that there's a disconnect between what is happening on the streets of America and what is happening here in Washington, DC.

One day my colleague was talking and in a moment of doubt and frustration, he said, "I don't even know if anybody is listening," to which somebody stood up on the floor here and said, "America is listening, Congressman. America is listening." And he was right.

The American people are hurting. At a gas station in North Augusta, South Carolina, one gentleman, a special needs gentleman, came up to me and said, "Congressman, I can only afford \$39 of gas, half a tank, because that's all I have and that's got to do me."

What are we doing to help this gentleman?

Mr. Speaker, let's quit the partisanship. This is an American problem and we need American solutions. Comprehensive legislation, all of the above.

REPUBLICAN FAILURES ON THE ECONOMY; WE CANNOT AFFORD MORE OF THE SAME

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Americans everywhere are paying the high price of 7 years of failed Republican economic policies that have favored the wealthiest few and the big corporations at the expense of middle class families, including in my State of Maryland.

Today, 3.4 million more Americans are unemployed than when President Bush took office 7 years ago. This year alone more than 600,000 jobs have been lost. Economists estimate that our economy must create at least 150,000 jobs every month. Well, this administration hasn't done that.

The job losses that have occurred on President Bush's watch stand in stark contrast to the millions of jobs created under President Clinton's economy back in the 1990s. Over this same 8-month period in Clinton's second term, the economy created 1.4 million jobs, and we have lost 600,000 jobs under this administration just this year alone.

Mr. Speaker, for 6 years straight, Washington Republicans implemented economic policies that favored the interests of Wall Street over the interests of Main Street. It's time for a dramatic change, one that takes us away from the failed Republican policies of the last 8 years and enables us to really tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

THE FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE DEMOCRATS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when I first came to the Congress, I was appalled at the comments that were being made on the other side. Having come from a legislative position, I was not used to people getting up and telling out-and-out boldfaced untruths. It has been a real learning experience for me, but that has continued particularly in the last 2 years with our colleagues on the other side. They stand up here and try to blame what has happened in this country in the last 2 years on the President of the United States when the Democrats are in charge of the Congress.

One of the best things we accomplished during the month of August, when Republicans stood on this floor for 5 weeks while Democrats were on vacation, was call attention to the fact that the Democrats are in charge. The failed economic policies of the past 2 years belong strictly to the Democrats because they have allowed gas prices to double and they have done absolutely nothing.

Now they're bringing up a bill they say that's going to do something about gas prices. Well, I think that bill will probably deserve the "Emperor's New Clothes" award and somebody is going to have to say that.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, while some in the minority party and in the Presidential race are trying to recast themselves as agents of change, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Republicans controlled this House for the first 6 years of the Bush administration and in the past 2 years they have done little more than obstruct our attempts to correct the misguided policies of the past.

In the past 8 years, the number of Americans living without health insurance has increased by more than 7 million. Today nearly one in nine children lack health insurance. After retaking control of Congress, we tried not once but twice to ensure that 10 million children had access to health care through the Children's Health Insurance Program, which serves families that are working hard and playing by the rules but can't afford health care for their kids. And although we were able to pass the bill through Congress, President Bush vetoed it twice and Senator MCCAIN recently said that was the right decision.

Mr. Speaker, we must work together to find ways to improve our health care system, especially for our children. More of the same just won't do.